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Three Cups of Tea

By: Greg Mortenson & David Oliver Relin

Once Mortenson obtains $10,000 from Jean Hoerni he returns to Korphe, Pakistan to continue work on the bridge. Hoerni also makes him the director of the Central Asia Institute (CAI). However, further disaster sets the bridge project back yet again. During the delay Mortenson learns how to hunt while growing more personal with the Balti people. As the team of Americans arrive to complete the bridge, it’s reveled that George McCown will become an important supporter of Mortenson’s work. McCown and Hoerni announce at a private dinner party that they will financial support Mortenson for one year so he can complete the bridge. His joy continues when Mortenson has the privilege of hearing Sir Edmond Hillary, an inspiration and hero to Greg, speaks at the dinner. Later, Mortenson meets a psychology graduate student by the name of Tara Bishop. The two feel an immediate attraction and get married six days later. After a two week “honey moon” with Tara, Greg Mortenson boards a plane to fly back to Korphe and finish the bridge.

Like the rest of this predictable novel, this section has a lot of ups and downs for Mortenson. First he gets money to continue building, then his supplies are taken, then the bridge is finished, then he goes to a nice dinner, then he gets married. It just gets kind of emotionally draining when the book basically leaves you feeling happy and sad all the time. Hopefully Mortenson will find more happiness in his life…

This section really only demonstrates the ability to over-come strife. As we’ve in The Epic of Gilgamesh and The Odyssey, all humans must have the ability to deal with hardships in their lives and overcome them. Gilgamesh had to be able to deal with all of the problems of being king, Odysseus and Telemachus had to overcome countless obstacles by forces outside of their control, and Greg Mortenson had to accept the fact the raising money and building schools for girls in Pakistan would be a nearly impossible task and be able to work around that.